

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application under
37 CFR 1.53(b):

Prior Application: APPLICANTS: M. IZAWA et al
 Serial No. 09/373,723
 Filed: August 13, 1999

Group Art: 1763
For: A DRY ETCHING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified
application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the specification with the enclosed (clean form)
substitute specification which complies with 37 C.F.R.
1.125(b). The substitute specification includes no new
matter. A marked up version of the substitute specification
is also enclosed showing all the amendments to the original
specification.

Page 1, before the first line, insert the following
paragraph:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial
No. 09/373,723, filed August 13, 1999.